

Female Aviation Firsts

TIMELINE

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| 1910 | Bessie Raiche | First woman to fly solo. She flew in an airplane her husband built of bamboo, wire and silk. |
| 1911 | Harriet Quimby | First U.S. woman to receive a pilot's license. |
| 1912 | Harriet Quimby | First woman to fly solo across the English Channel. |
| 1913 | Ruth Bancroft Law | First woman to fly at night. |
| 1914 | Katherine Stinson | First woman to fly a loop (Cicero Field, Chicago, IL). |
| 1917 | Katherine Stinson | Set flight endurance record of 9 hours and 10 minutes. |
| 1918 | Anna Low | First Chinese-American, female aviator who flew in the San Francisco, CA region. |
| 1921 | Bessie Coleman | First African-American female aviator to qualify for an international pilot's license from the Federation Aeronautique Internationale. |
| 1924 | Ruth Nichols | First woman to earn an international hydroplane license. |
| 1929 | Ninety-Nines | Women pilots form this female aviators club with Amelia Earhart as president. The name comes from the fact that out of 126 female licensed pilots, 99 of them joined. |
| 1929 | Elinor Smith | Sets solo flight endurance record of 13 hours and 16 minutes. |
| 1929 | Bobbi Trout | First woman to fly all night. |
| 1930 | Florence Klingensmith | First woman to set loop record for 143 consecutive loops. |
| 1931 | Anne Morrow Lindberg | First woman to earn a glider pilot's license. |

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1932	Olive Beech	Helps to found, with her husband, Beech Aircraft Corporation.
1932	Kathryn Cheung	First Chinese-American female to earn a U.S. pilot's license.
1932	Amelia Earhart	First woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean (in just under 15 hours).
1932	Ruth Nichols	First woman hired as a pilot for commercial passenger flights, on New York Airways.
1936	Louise Thaden, pilot Blanche Noyes, co-pilot	First women to win the Bendix Transcontinental Air Race from Los Angeles, CA to New York City, New York.
1937	Willa Brown	First African-American woman to earn a commercial pilot's license.
1938	Hanna Reitsch	German WWII test pilot who was the first woman to pilot a helicopter.
1943	Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP)	The government program in which female pilots were used to train the male pilots for combat duty. The U.S. female pilots also ferried airplanes across the Atlantic Ocean for use in combat.
1944	Ann Baumgartner	First U.S. woman to fly an experimental jet airplane. She reached speeds of 350 mph and altitudes up to 35,000 feet.
1947	Ann Shaw Carter	First U.S. woman licensed to fly a helicopter.
1953	Jacqueline Cochran	First woman to break the sound barrier.
1955	Whirley Girls	Female helicopter pilots start their own association.
1960	Jerrie Cobb	First woman to undergo the testing developed for the selection of the Mercury Astronauts.

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| 1961 | Jacqueline Cochran | First woman to fly the highest to an altitude of 55,253 feet. |
| 1961 | Jacqueline Cochran | Established a new altitude record for the T-38 aircraft by flying 56,071 feet. |
| 1964 | Jerrie Mock | First woman to fly solo around the world. She made the flight in 29 1/2 days flying 22,860 miles. |
| 1973 | Emily Howell | As second officer for Frontier Airlines, she flies Boeing 737 jets. She is the first woman to do so for a regularly scheduled airline. |
| 1973 | Bonnie Tiburzi | First female jet pilot hired by a major airline, American Airlines. |
| 1984 | Betsy Carroll | First woman to fly a jumbo jet across the Atlantic Ocean for a commercial airline (People Express). |
| 1986 | Jeanne Yeager
(and Dick Rutan) | First pilots to fly around the world non-stop and non-refueled. They accomplished this in a specially designed aircraft called the Voyager. |
| 1990 | Jean K. Tinsley | First female to fly a tilt rotor aircraft. |
| 1995 | Eileen M. Collins | First female to pilot U.S. space shuttle. |
| 1999 | Eileen M. Collins | First female U.S. space shuttle commander. |